

Hobbies

Cash for gifts: The color's fine and the size is always right

By Roger Boye

This week's column presents a stocking full of gift ideas for people who collect money—or just spend it.

● **Million-dollar bills.** This ultimate "play money" is backed by confidence in the American dream and serves as a way to say "thanks a million." The bills are commissioned by the International Association of Millionaires, a group that may be launched next year "for those who are and those who want to be."

Each million is finely printed by the American Bank Note Co. with an individual serial number and high-tech security features, such as micro-printing and hidden images visible under ultraviolet light. To order, send \$10 (or \$8 each for ten or more bills) to IAM Enterprises, 1107 Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 488, South Pasadena, Calif. 91030.

● **Uncut greenbacks.** This is the "real thing," produced by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing and distributed in a government folder that describes U.S. paper money. The American Numismatic Association Museum Store charges \$12.75, plus shipping charges, for an uncut sheet of four \$1 bills and \$16.75 for four \$2 bills. (Uncle Sam sells them for \$10.25 and \$14.75 each, but you probably wouldn't receive delivery until after the holidays.)

For more information, write to the store at 818 N. Cascade Ave.



This million-dollar bill (non-negotiable) is the ultimate play money—for \$10, from the International Association of Millionaires.

nue, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903 or call (800) 367-9723. This gift comes all but guaranteed, because if it isn't a hit, the bills can be cut apart and spent.

● **Gift wrappings.** The ANA Museum Store also offers one of its more popular items from past years, wrapping paper that depicts U.S. paper money. A package of two sheets, each 20½ by 27 inches, costs \$1.75, plus shipping.

● **German re-unification sets.** Help commemorate one of 1990's historic events by giving a copper-nickel medal made in Germany, coins from the "old" West and East Germany, a piece of the Berlin Wall and a piece of barbed wire. The Museum Store is selling all of that for \$29, plus shipping, or \$49 for a set that includes a one-ounce silver medal.

● **Puzzle books.** Quick, what's a cull? This and hundreds of

other questions are included in Puzzler Special #1, a 63-page crossword, brain teaser and trivia book by the staff of hobby newspaper Coin World. Price is \$1.95 from Coin World, P. O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365; telephone (800) 253-4555. (Cull: an extremely worn, damaged coin.)

● **References.** "Coin World Almanac" is one of the most useful of all hobby-related books, an accurate, comprehensive repository of facts well worth the \$15.95 cost. The 1991 sixth edition has 752 pages and includes essays on coins as investments and an expanded index. To order, call (800) 253-4555.

● **Price guides.** "Standard Catalog of World Coins" by Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler (\$36.95 for the 1991 edition) evaluates nearly every coin minted in the world since 1801, each in several condition categories. Thousands of illustrations help

assure proper identification. The companion "Standard Catalog of World Paper Money" by Albert Pick (\$49 for the sixth edition) prices 21,300 notes and has more than 10,000 photographs.

A novice might enjoy "Collecting World Coins," a 624-page listing of round money issued by hundreds of countries during the past century (\$19.95 for the just released third edition). All three catalogues can be ordered from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990; telephone (715) 445-2214. Also, many coin shops carry one or more of the books. (Mail orders to Krause should include \$2.50 per book

for shipping.)

● **Calendars.** The eagle as depicted on U.S. coins graces the pages of a 1991 wall calendar from Krause Publications (\$5.95). Many of the date squares carry tidbits of hobby history.

● **Hobby publications.** A home-delivered coin newspaper or magazine will be remembered year-round. An annual subscription to the weekly Numismatic News costs \$24.95 (write to Krause Publications at the address above); the weekly Coin World, \$26 (address above); and the monthly Coinage magazine, \$18 (write to 2660 E. Main St., Ventura, Calif. 93003).